

Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 194472

70

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 H-02

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07

L-03 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 /093 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P: RONEILL:RGH

APPROVED BY NEA/P: GFSHERMAN

S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH (INFO)

NEA/EGY - MR. MATTHEWS (INFO)

NEA/ARN - MR. DAY (INFO)

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN (INFO)

----- 086351

R 152216Z AUG 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PAGE 02 STATE 194472

AMEMBASSY SANA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 15,
1975:

Q. DO YOU HAVE A READ-OUT OF THE MEETING WITH DINITZ?

A. THE SECRETARY MET WITH AMBASSADOR DINITZ THIS
MORNING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, IN WHICH THEY OF COURSE
DISCUSSED THE PROGRESS OF THE TALKS SO FAR. AFTER THAT
MEETING, AMBASSADOR DINITZ THEN WENT DOWN AND CONTINUED
HIS MEETINGS WITH UNDER SECRETARY SISCO. THEY WERE STILL
MEETING WHEN I CAME DOWN, ALTHOUGH I UNDERSTAND THEY
WERE GOING TO BREAK FOR LUNCH HERE IN THE BUILDING AND
THEN PROBABLY RESUME AFTER LUNCH.

Q. THIS IS THE DRAFTING GROUP?

A. YES. MR. GAZIT AND DR. ROSENNE.

Q. THIS LUNCH THAT IS GOING ON NOW, SUPPOSEDLY, IS THAT
JUST A PRIVATE LUNCH OF THE PARTICIPANTS. THERE ARE NO

OUTSIDERS?

A. CORRECT. JUST AN INFORMAL WORKING LUNCH.

Q. DO YOU EXPECT THAT THIS IS THE LAST MEETING BEFORE A
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PAGE 03 STATE 194472

SHUTTLE BEGINS?

A. I WOULD NOT MAKE SUCH A PREDICTION.

Q. YOU DO NOT KNOW WHEN THESE TALKS ARE TO FINISH?

A. NO.

Q. AND THE OTHER TALKS, THE FINANCIAL TALKS?

A. THEY ENDED YESTERDAY.

Q. WHAT CONCLUSIONS DID THEY REACH?

A. I THINK IT WAS NOT A POINT OF REACHING A CONCLUSION, BUT RATHER FOR THE ISRAELI REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESENT US WITH DATA AND INFORMATION TO HELP US IN OUR ANALYSIS OF AID LEVELS.

Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES NOW HAVE AN AID LEVEL THAT IT HAS DETERMINED IT WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST FROM CONGRESS?

A. AS A RESULT OF THESE TALKS, WE WILL NOW BE ABLE TO PROCEED FURTHER.

Q. DID THEY REQUEST A SPECIFIC AMOUNT?

A. I AM SURE THAT THERE WERE VARIOUS LEVELS DISCUSSED, OR VARIOUS SUMS DISCUSSED. BUT I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO PROVIDE ANY DETAILS ON THAT.

Q. DO YOU KNOW OF UNSCHEDULED MEETINGS OF THE OTHER GROUP FOR THIS AFTERNOON, FOR TOMORROW, THE WEEKEND?

A. I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT TOMORROW AT THIS POINT.

Q. WHAT ABOUT EGYPT, SYRIA AND JORDAN, WITH REFERENCE TO THE ECONOMIC MATTER? THE PRESENTATION TO THE CONGRESS ON THE NEAR EAST PACKAGES.

A. WE HAVE NOT MADE ANY DETERMINATION ON THAT EITHER.
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PAGE 04 STATE 194472

YOU WILL RECALL, PART OF THE REASSESSMENT WAS, AS MR. SISCO INDICATED IN AN INTERVIEW THIS MORNING, ON

AID LEVELS FOR THE AREA, AND WE HAVE HAD TALKS WITH CERTAIN OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES. I THINK YOU WILL REMEMBER THAT UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON WAS IN CAIRO, FOR EXAMPLE. I THINK HE WAS ALSO IN EUROPE TALKING WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EGYPT. SO WE HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH THE ARAB COUNTRIES AS WELL.

Q. WHY ARE THERE SO MANY MEETINGS BETWEEN THE AMERICANS AND THE ISRAELIS? WHAT IS THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STORY WITH THE AMERICANS AND THE EGYPTIANS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT? WHAT IS EILTS DOING IN ALL THIS?

A. OBVIOUSLY WE ARE COMMUNICATING TO THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH AMBASSADOR EILTS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY POSSIBLE DATE NOW IN MIND AS TO WHEN THE PRESENTATION ON AID WILL BE MADE?

A. NO, AND AGAIN, I BELIEVE MR. SISCO SAID THIS MORNING THAT AFTER THIS DIPLOMATIC ROUND A DECISION ON A PRESENTATION OF AID LEVELS WOULD BE MADE.

Q. THEN THE AID PROGRAM DEFINITELY IS TIED TO THE POLITICAL ROUND?

A. WELL, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN CONSIDERED PART OF THE REASSESSMENT.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR TOON HAVE ANY ROLE PARALLEL TO THAT OF AMBASSADOR EILTS?

A. IT IS HARD FOR ME TO CHARACTERIZE IT EXACTLY PARALLEL, BECAUSE AT THE PRESENT TIME THE PRIMARY LOCALE OF THE COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN HERE IN WASHINGTON, WHEREAS THE PRIMARY LOCALE FOR COMMUNICATING WITH THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN IN EGYPT. SO IT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT COMPARABLE.

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PAGE 05 STATE 194472

Q. CAN YOU CONFIRM A STORY IN THE NEW YORK TIMES SAYING THAT THE ISRAELI TOP OIL OFFICIAL TOOK PART IN THE TALKS?

A. I DO NOT HAVE THAT LIST BEFORE ME, BUT ON THE LIST OF NAMES OF THE DELEGATES, I DID NOT SEE ONE IDENTIFIED AS THE TOP OIL ADVISER. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF OFFICIALS, BUT I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THAT IS THE CASE. YOU WOULD HAVE TO ASK THE ISRAELI EMBASSY.

Q. IS IT TRUE THAT ISRAEL HAS ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO BUILD STORAGE DEPOTS THAT WOULD HOLD ONE YEAR'S WORTH OF OIL?

A. I REALLY AM NOT ABLE TO GO INTO DETAILS ON ANY ASPECT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS HERE.

Q. IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO BUILD OIL STORAGE FACILITIES?

A. SAME ANSWER.

Q. DID AMBASSADOR DINITZ GIVE THE SECRETARY A MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER RABIN FOR PRESIDENT FORD? IS HE CARRYING ANYTHING FROM ISRAEL BY WAY OF A LETTER OR A MESSAGE?

A. I AM NOT ABLE TO ANSWER THAT. I DO NOT KNOW.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY SUMMON DINITZ TO THIS MEETING, OR DID THE AMBASSADOR ASK FOR THIS MEETING THIS MORNING, AND WHO ELSE WAS PRESENT AT IT?

A. WE ARE IN A STATE OF CONTINUOUS TALKS, AND, -- SOMETIMES IN THIS KIND OF NEGOTIATION, IT BECOMES OBVIOUS AND SELF-EVIDENT AT A POINT IN THE DISCUSSIONS, WHERE THEY WANT TO AGAIN TALK TO THE SECRETARY.

HE WAS OUT OF THE CITY YESTERDAY, AS YOU KNOW, WHILE AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS HERE, AND THERE WERE OTHER TALKS. SO I WOULD THINK IT WAS JUST SORT OF A MUTUAL INTEREST.
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PAGE 06 STATE 194472

BUT I SUPPOSE TECHNICALLY AND FORMALLY, THE AMBASSADOR WAS INVITED, BUT I WOULDN'T MAKE MUCH OF THAT, AS TO WHO INVITED WHOM.

Q. WHO ELSE WAS THERE?

A. I DON'T HAVE THE LIST OF PEOPLE.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN AN EQUAL INTENSITY OR FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS BETWEEN EILTS AND PRESIDENT SADAT?

A. I DO NOT KNOW -- OBVIOUSLY, THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF MEETINGS. FOR EXAMPLE, THE LEVEL OF AID. WE ALL KNOW THE LEVEL OF AID TO ISRAEL IS DIFFERENT THAN IT IS FOR EGYPT. SO THAT IS ONE OF THE REASONS THAT YOU HAVE TO HAVE THE SORT OF DETAILED FINANCIAL TALKS THAT WE WERE HAVING. BUT IN TERMS OF OTHER TALKS, I AM SURE THAT AT EACH AND EVERY APPROPRIATE STAGE, THE EGYPTIAN

GOVERNMENT IS BEING KEPT INFORMED. I THINK YOU JUST HAVE TO ASSUME THAT WE ARE IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH BOTH SIDES.

Q. YOU KNOW, YOU USE THE PHRASE, BOB, THAT EGYPT WAS QUOTE KEPT INFORMED, UNQUOTE BUT HERE THE IMPRESSION IS THAT KISSINGER AND DINITZ ARE NEGOTIATING, WHILE SADAT IS BEING KEPT INFORMED, AS THOUGH THERE ARE NO NEGOTIATIONS AT THE OTHER END OF THIS EQUATION.

A. NO, I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE THAT IMPRESSION AT ALL.

Q. EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS ARE SAYING TODAY THAT THE SECRETARY'S TRIP WILL LAST ABOUT TEN DAYS, AND TAKE HIM TO SAUDI ARABIA AND JORDAN, AS WELL AS SYRIA, EGYPT AND ISRAEL. CAN YOU COMMENT ON THAT?

A. INASMUCH AS THE SECRETARY STILL HASN'T GOT TO THE
POINT WHERE HE CAN MAKE A DECISION ON IT, I DO NOT
THINK THERE IS MUCH POINT IN MY SPECULATING ABOUT
REPORTS AS TO WHERE HE MIGHT GO ON A TRIP THAT HAS NOT
BEEN ANNOUNCED YET. SISCO
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PAGE 07 STATE 194472

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